

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19846

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE MARSH AND CE/WE RICHARDS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC (COT, JEAN-PIERRE), PINT, FR

SUBJECT: INTERVISITOR GRANTEE JEAN-PIERRE COT

REF: PARIS A-337, JULY 29, 1975

1. COT, SOCIALIST (PS) DEPUTY FROM SAVOY ARRIVING US AUGUST 19' HAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED EMBOFFS WITH HIS JUDGMENT, MATURITY, ORATORICAL SKILLS AND POLITICAL STYLE. A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, COT ACCCOMPANIED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COUVE DE MURVILLE TO THE SOVIET UNION EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PS VIEW OF GOF FOREIGN POLICY. COT STRIKES US AS ONE OF THE FEW YOUNG MEN IN FRANCE WITH THE DRIVE, INTELLIGENCE AND CHARISMA TO BE A CREDIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN A FEW YEARS.

2. HIS EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS: ALTHOUGH THE PS OFFICIALLY ENDORSES THE FRENCH INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FORCE, COT LEADS A GROWING FACTION WHICH BELIEVES THAT EUROPEAN STRATEGIC POLICY REALITIES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A REFLECTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPER POWERS. HE HAS, THEREFORE, REPEATEDLY STATED THAT MBFR AND CSCE ARE MUCH LESS IMPORTANT TO FRANCE THAN SALT AND THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF DETENTE. COT ALSO TELLS US THAT HE IS REEXAMINING HIS POSITION ON NATO AND WOULD LIKE TO

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DISCUSS NATO PROBLEMS WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT

OFFICIALS.

3. THE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM: COT HAS SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED TO EMBOFFS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PS PARTICIPATE MORE FREQUENTLY IN FRANCO-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. AS NOTED REFAIR, COT HAS ALREADY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CONGRESSMEN DELLUMS, RAILSBACK AND DRINAN. IN ADDITION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM CONGRESSMAN DON RIEGLE'S OFFICE REQUESTING A CHANCE TO TALK WITH COT.

4. SUGGESTIONS FOR COT'S OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR COT TO BE RECEIVED BY EUR/WE, BY DEPUTY SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN, BY EUR/RPM (HOLMES) AND, IF POSSIBLE, BY COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND HIS STAFF. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ARRANGE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS IN DOD/ISA AND SHOULD BE AWARE THAT PROGRAMMING AGENCY WILL BE ARRANGING COT'S CALLS ON CONGRESSMEN MENTIONED ABOVE AND ON HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFFER CLIFF HACKETT.

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